

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RIO DE 00878 251948Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5879

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RIO DE JANEIRO 0878

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

REF: STATE 048077

1. CONGEN ANXIOUS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE RIO STOP AS RESTFUL AS POSSIBLE AND TO MINIMIZE CEREMONIES AND FUNCTIONS. IN CONTACTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES WE WILL STRESS THIS OBJECTIVE AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, URGE THAT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES BE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

2. GIVEN LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN REFTEL, OUR MOST AUSTERE RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE THAT PRESIDENT AND PARTY, AFTER ARRIVAL CEREMONY, PROCEED DIRECTLY TO HOTEL FOLLOWING A ROUTE THAT WOULD TAKE MOTORCADE THROUGH CENTER OF CITY AND ALONG FULL EXTENT OF BEACH AREA. THIS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN MOST DIRECT ROUTE (E.E. ABOUT ONE HOUR AND TEN MINUTES AS OPPOSED TO FORTY-FIVE MINUTES), BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE GREATER EXPOSURE TO THE CITY AND ITS SCENERY AND ALSO GIVE GREATER PUBLIC VISIBILITY TO THE PRESIDENT. THE SHORTER, MORE DIRECT ROUTE ALSO PASSES THROUGH TWO LONG TUNNELS AND THIS MIGHT BE A SECURITY CONSIDERATION.

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3. REGARDING MONUMENT WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY, DO NOT KNOW IF PREVIOUS VISITING U.S. PRESIDENTS (TRUMAN AND EISENHOWER) LAID WREATHS BUT DOUBT IF THEIR ACTIONS WOULD SET PRECEDENT FOR TODAY SINCE THEY VISITED WHEN RIO WAS CAPITOL CITY AND, OF COURSE, WHEN MEMORY OF WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION WAS MORE VIVID THAN TODAY. SECRETARY KISSINGER DID NOT LAY A WREATH AND WE DID NOT SUGGEST IT BECAUSE OF THE VERY BRIEF AND PURELY

PRIVATE CHARACTER OF HIS STOP-OVER IN RIO. THE IDEA OCCURRED TO US FOR THE VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE FOR A MEDIA EVENT.

4. AS REQUESTED, WE WILL DISCOURAGE ANY PROPOSALS REGARDING OTHER ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE EVENING, PENDING DISCUSSION WITH THE ADVANCE PARTY. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EFFECT UPON BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION IF, DURING HIS STOP-OVER IN BRAZIL'S SECOND LARGEST CITY AND FORMER CAPITOL, THE PRESIDENT DECLINES TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH BRAZILIANS, INCLUDING LOCAL AUTHORITIES, OR TO SAMPLE ANY OF RIO'S CULTURAL OFFERINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ATTENDANCE AT A SOCCER GAME WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL AS ENJOYABLE. WE WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THERE IS AN INTERESTING GAME DURING THE NIGHT HE IS HERE. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE STADIUM IS ABOUT 45 MINUTES FROM THE HOTEL, AND SECURITY WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED.

5. WE HAVE NOTED SUGGESTION IN REFTEL, PARA 8, RE MEETING WITH CARDINAL ARNS. APART FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT EMBASSY MAY RAISE, WE WOULD OBSERVE THAT RIO HAS ITS OWN PRE-LATE, CARDINAL SALES, WHO IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL CHURCH LEADER, THOUGH LESS PUBLICLY OUTSPOKEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES THAN ARNS. WE WOULD QUESTION THE PROPRIETY OF THE PRESIDENT SEEING THE CARDINAL FROM SAO PAULO IN RIO RATHER THAN CARDINAL SALES. (BRASILIA WILL BE ADDRESSING THIS POINT

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IN CONNECTION WITH PARAGRAPH 8 OF REFTEL.)

6. WILL ADVISE ON HOTEL SITUATION BY SEPTEL AFTER WE HAVE HAD AUTHORITY TO EXPLORE WITH THE HOTELS CONCERNED.

7. THIS MESSAGE CLEARED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA.
DEXTER

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NNN

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